

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00428 030630Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----030638 127575 /11  
O 030510Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7819

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0428

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2, 3  
TAGS: PFOR LA US VN  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

REF A VIENTIANE 0372, B VIENTIANE 0385, C VIENTIANE 0400

1. FEBRUARY 23 I MADE ORAL PRESENTATION TO SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOUPHAN SITHODSAY ON PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION VISIT TO HANOI AND OUR INTENTION TO BE IN FURTHER TOUCH WITH LPDR ON THIS SUBJECT (REF A). FEBRUARY 24 I DELIVERED TO NOUPHAN TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH AND BRIEFED NOUPHAN ON PROBABLE COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION, FACT THAT SRV HAD AGREED TO SIMILAR VISIT AND COMMISSION'S DESIRE TO VISIT VIENTIANE AS WELL IN COURSE OF ITS TRAVELS. NOUPHAN PROMISED REPLY (REF B). FEBRUARY 25 I INFORMED NOUPHAN OF OUR PLAN TO ANNOUNCE COMMISSION TRAVEL TO HANOI AND OUR PROPOSAL THAT VISIT TO LPDR TAKE PLACE ABOUT MARCH 20-21 AS WELL AS OUR PROPOSAL TO VIETNAMESE THAT HANOI VISIT TAKE PLACE MARCH 16-19. NOUPHAN AGAIN SAID FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD REPLY TO SECRETARY'S LETTER.

2. AT SWEDISH AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION FOR SIDA DELEGATION MARCH 2,, VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR DINH NHO LIEM  
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ASKED ME IF LPDR HAD YET AGREED TO COMMISSION'S VISIT TO VIENTIANE. I TOLD HIM I HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY. HE THEN ASKED ME BY WHAT ROUTE COMMISSION WOULD REACH HANOI. I TOLD HIM I WAS NOT AWARE OF SUCH DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS AND I ASSUMED THEY WERE BEING HANDLED BY OUR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN PARIS.

3. A LITTLE LATER AT SAME RECEPTION FOREIGN MINISTRY  
CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH ASKED ME IF VIET-  
NAMESE HAD AGREED TO THE SPECIFIC DATES FOR COMMISSION'S  
VISIT TO HANOI. I TOLD HIM I DID NOT KNOW AND MENTIONED  
THAT THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR HAD ALSO ASKED ME FOR  
SOME DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH I WAS NOT ABLE TO  
GIVE HIM. AS I HAD HOPED HE WOULD, SOUBANH THEN SAID  
HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR ABOUT  
WHAT DATES THE VIETNAMESE HAD AGREED TO.

4. I SUSPECT THAT EITHER LAO SENSITIVITIES VIS-A-VIS  
THE VIETNAMESE INHIBITED EARLIER CONSULTATION IN  
REGARD TO TIMING OF VISIT OR VIETNAMESE HAVE NOT YET  
FIXED THE DATES FOR HANOI VISIT. IN ANY EVENT, CON-  
SULTATION BETWEEN SOUBANH AND AMBASSADOR DINH NHO LIEM  
MAY HELP TO EXPEDITE LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLY TO  
SECRETARY LETTER.  
CORCORAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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